

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting samples from within a sealed system, comprising:

a housing, said housing having an internal cavity sealed from the ambient environment outside the housing;

a plurality of receptacles, each of said plurality of receptacles being movable into said internal cavity of said housing and fillable with a flowable material while within said internal cavity of said housing, respectively; and

a filled receptacle holder, said filled receptacle holder receiving each of said plurality of receptacles after each of said plurality of receptacles has been filled, said filled receptacle holder being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within said internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing,

wherein said filled receptacle holder is an integral tube which is separable into a plurality of filled receptacle compartments, a first of said plurality of compartments having an open end thereof forming a seal with said housing, and a last of said plurality of compartments having a closed distal end, each of said plurality of compartments being closable to contain at least one of said plurality of filled receptacles therein in an isolated manner.

15. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, wherein said last of said plurality of compartments is closable after a first of said plurality of filled receptacles is received therein to isolate said first filled receptacle from the environment within said internal cavity of said housing and from said ambient environment outside the housing, remaining of said plurality of compartments remaining in an open condition with said internal cavity of said housing to receive a subsequent filled receptacle therein.

16. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of compartments is closable at opposite ends thereof to isolate adjacent of said plurality of compartments from each other when a respective of said plurality of compartments has received a filled receptacle therein.

17. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of compartments is closable by one of the group consisting of heat sealing, zipper sealing, crimping, adhesive sealing, screw capping, twisting, sonicating, tying off, clamping and stoppering.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, further comprising a flowable material supplier, said flowable material supplier being operable to supply a flowable material between adjacent of said plurality of compartments when one of said plurality of compartments has been closed to enclose at least one of said plurality of receptacles therein.

21. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, further comprising:

an injection port formed in said housing; and

an empty receptacle holder, said empty receptacle holder being in communication with said injection port and being sealed with the housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing,

wherein said empty receptacle holder holds said plurality of receptacles therein prior to filling within said housing.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A device for collecting samples from within a sealed ~~system according to claim 10, system, comprising:~~

a housing, said housing having an internal cavity sealed from the ambient environment outside the housing, said housing including an injection port and an ejection port formed therein;

an empty receptacle holder, said empty receptacle holder being in communication with said injection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said empty receptacle holder holding a plurality of receptacles therein;

a filled receptacle holder, said filled receptacle holder being in communication with said ejection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said filled receptacle holder for receiving said plurality of receptacles therein and being removably mounted to said housing such that the environment inside said housing and the environment inside said filled receptacle holder remain sealed from each other and the ambient environment outside the housing when said filled receptacle holder and said housing are removed from each other,

wherein each of said plurality of receptacles is movable from said empty receptacle holder into said internal cavity of said housing to be filled with a flowable material while within said internal cavity of said housing, and said plurality of receptacles is movable into said filled receptacle holder to be removed therewith, and

~~wherein there are a plurality of said at least one receptacle,~~ and said filled receptacle holder is an integral tube which is separable into a plurality of filled receptacle compartments, a first of said plurality of compartments having an open end thereof forming a seal with said housing, and a last of said plurality of compartments having a closed distal end, each of said

plurality of compartments being closable to contain at least one of said plurality of receptacles therein in an isolated manner.

24. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 23, wherein said last of said plurality of compartments is closable after a first of said plurality of filled receptacles is received therein to isolate said first filled receptacle from the environment within said internal cavity of said housing and from said ambient environment outside said housing, remaining of said plurality of compartments remaining in an open condition with said internal cavity of said housing to receive a subsequent filled receptacle therein.

25. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 24, wherein each of said plurality of compartments is closable at opposite ends thereof to isolate adjacent of said plurality of compartments from each other when a respective of said plurality of compartments has received a filled receptacle therein.

26. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 24, wherein each of said plurality of compartments is closable by one of the group consisting of heat sealing, zipper sealing, crimping, adhesive sealing, screw capping, twisting, sonicating, tying off, clamping and stoppering.

Claims 27-29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 28, ~~further comprising system,~~ comprising:

a housing, said housing having an internal cavity sealed from the ambient environment outside the housing, said housing including an injection port and an ejection port formed therein;

an empty receptacle holder, said empty receptacle holder being in communication with said injection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said empty receptacle holder holding at least one receptacle therein;

a filled receptacle holder, said filled receptacle holder being in communication with said ejection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said filled receptacle holder for receiving said at least one receptacle therein and being removably mounted to said housing such that the environment inside said housing and the environment inside said filled receptacle holder remain sealed from each other and the ambient environment outside the housing when said filled receptacle holder and said housing are removed from each other,

a receptacle conveyor, said receptacle conveyor being movable to transport each of said at least one receptacle to a filling station within said internal cavity of said housing where each

of said at least one receptacle is fillable and from said filling station to said ejection port formed in said housing;

a flowable material feeder having an opening at said filling station within said internal cavity of said housing, said flowable material feeder being operable to feed material from a supply source into each of said at least one receptacle;

a stopper removing or opening mechanism, said stopper removing or opening mechanism being operable to remove or open a stopper from each of said at least one receptacle when each of said at least one receptacle is located at said filling station to allow for each of said at least one receptacle to be filled by said flowable material feeder; and

a stopper attaching mechanism, said stopper attaching mechanism being operable to attach a screw-on or plug stopper to each of said at least one receptacle, close a port in each of said at least one receptacle, or close or seal a penetrated septum on each of said at least one receptacle,

wherein each of said at least one receptacle is movable from said empty receptacle holder into said internal cavity of said housing to be filled with a flowable material while within said internal cavity of said housing, and said at least one receptacle is movable into said filled receptacle holder to be removed therewith.

31. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, further comprising:

a receptacle conveyor, said receptacle conveyor being movable to transport each of said plurality of receptacles to a filling station within said internal cavity of said housing where each of said plurality of receptacles is fillable, respectively and from said filling station to an ejection port formed in said housing; and

a flowable material feeder having an opening at said filling station within said internal cavity of said housing, said flowable material feeder being operable to feed material from a supply source into each of said plurality of receptacles.

32. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 31, further comprising a stopper removing or opening mechanism, said stopper removing or opening mechanism being operable to remove or open a stopper from each of said plurality of receptacles when each of said plurality of receptacles is located at said filling station to allow for each of said plurality of receptacles to be filled by said flowable material feeder.

33. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 32, wherein said stopper removing or opening mechanism is operable to remove a screw-on or plug stopper from each of said plurality of receptacles, open a port in each of said plurality of receptacles, or penetrate a septum on each of said plurality of receptacles.

34. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 32, further comprising a stopper attaching mechanism, said stopper attaching mechanism being operable to attach a screw-on or plug stopper to each of said plurality of receptacles, close a port in each of said plurality of receptacles, or close or seal a penetrated septum on each of said plurality of receptacles.

35 (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 14, further comprising:

a flowable material feeder, said flowable material feeder being operable to feed material into each of said plurality of receptacles; and

a flowable material supplier, said flowable material supplier being operable to supply a flowable material into said filled receptacle holder.--

37. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting samples from within a sealed system, comprising:

a housing, said housing having an internal cavity sealed from the ambient environment outside the housing, said housing including an injection port and an ejection port formed therein;

an empty receptacle holder, said empty receptacle holder being in communication with said injection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment

within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said empty receptacle holder holding a plurality of receptacles therein;

a filled receptacle holder, said filled receptacle holder being in communication with said ejection port and being sealed with said housing to form a barrier between the environment within the internal cavity of said housing and the ambient environment outside said housing, said filled receptacle holder for receiving each of said plurality of receptacle therein and being removably mounted to said housing such that the environment inside said housing and the environment inside said filled receptacle holder remain sealed from each other and the ambient environment outside the housing,

wherein said filled receptacle holder is an integral tube which is separable into a plurality of filled receptacle compartments, a first of said plurality of compartments having an open end thereof forming a seal with said housing, and a last of said plurality of compartments having a closed distal end, each of said plurality of compartments being closable to contain at least one of said plurality of receptacles therein in an isolated manner, and

wherein each of said plurality of receptacles is movable from said empty receptacle holder into said internal cavity of said housing to be filled with a flowable material while within said internal cavity of said housing, and each of said plurality of receptacles is movable into said filled receptacle holder to be removed therewith.

38. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 37, wherein said last of said plurality of compartments is closable

after a first of said plurality of filled receptacles is received therein to isolate said first filled receptacle from the environment within said internal cavity of said housing and from said ambient environment outside said housing, remaining of said plurality of compartments remaining in an open condition with said internal cavity of said housing to receive a subsequent filled receptacle therein.

39. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 38, wherein each of said plurality of compartments is closable at opposite ends thereof to isolate adjacent of said plurality of compartments from each other when a respective of said plurality of compartments has received a filled receptacle therein.

40. (Previously Presented) The device for collecting samples from within a sealed system according to claim 38, wherein each of said plurality of compartments is closable by one of the group consisting of heat sealing, zipper sealing, crimping, adhesive sealing, screw capping, twisting, sonicating, tying off, clamping and stoppering.